

the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 136. 7

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 86, House Concurrent Resolution 135, and House Concurrent Resolution 136, the matters just considered by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5:30 p.m.

□ 1740

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 5 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On the basis of House Report 109-51 and certain media coverage thereof, the gentlewoman may rise to a question of personal privilege under rule IX.

The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, because I believe in the integrity of this House, the specialness of this House, and the specialness of my colleagues.

I also believe that this time that I will have to share with my colleagues and to share with the American people is a moment for us to be able to move forward and not to recount or to go back over a pathway that is not productive.

A few weeks ago we were discussing legislation that of its very name is extremely controversial. In the course of that legislation, H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, CIANA, the debate was vigorous; and I

know that in this Congress we have had our differences of opinion as it relates to the question of choice, the ninth amendment, the right to privacy, and, in this instance, the question of parental consent.

It is interesting to note that those of us who may side on the position of choice and the right to privacy recognize the intensity and the questions being raised about children who are put in harm's way, whether or not that means that a child without counsel, because of some tragedy in her life, has to seek an abortion.

The vigorosity of the debate centered around the idea of the enormous range of differences of opinion expressed by different States. I think they are equally divided, 23, 22, 27, some States having no provisions for parental consent as it relates to a child securing an abortion, some States having a very complicated process with judicial review, and some States having a medium process.

The debate in the Committee on the Judiciary by members on my side of the aisle really centered and focused on the structure of the legislation that seemingly would close the door shut on a child that would seek counsel beyond the parent in this very troubling time in their life. It also sought to clarify whether an innocent bystander who could provide a mode of transportation might, in fact, be held criminally liable under this particular law. So there were a number of amendments being offered that would hopefully clarify this very difficult question.

Mr. Speaker, this is a time when passions rise high, temperatures rise high as well. As I said, there is a vigorous disagreement about this question of abortion and even more vigorous when it involves a child who is under the age of majority.

□ 1745

So there were a number of amendments offered by my colleagues, one offered that, in particular the description of the amendment simply offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), allowed an adult who could be prosecuted under the bill go to a Federal court and seek a waiver to the State's parental notice laws if this remedy was not available.

Subsequently, there was a House Report, 109-51, and in that report, a series of amendments were described in particular to give license to sexual predators. May I repeat that again, Mr. Speaker, to give license to sexual predators.

I started out by saying, and I do intend to follow that charge that I have made, that this is an effort to go forward, to be able to highlight a mistake, an indiscretion, a pathway that hopefully we will not return to and allow us to heal on our own, if you will, but also to cite that this is not the way to run the People's House.

That amendment simply stated that it allowed an adult who could be pros-

ecuted under the bill to go to the Federal District Court and seek a waiver to the State's parental notice laws. Remember I started out, Mr. Speaker, by saying State parental notice laws are varying around the Nation. It was ultimately written to suggest that that particular gentleman from New York had an amendment that would have created an additional layer of Federal Court review that could be used by sexual predators to escape conviction under the bill. It suggested that that roll call, that particular amendment, was defeated 11 to 16.

Subsequently, there was another amendment by the gentleman from New York to exempt a grandparent or adult sibling from the criminal and civil provisions in the bill, again, simply stated as plain as can be. And, by the way, Mr. Speaker, though I am not intending to challenge legislation that has already been passed on the floor of the House, albeit I disagree with it vigorously in terms of the restraints it puts on the interaction between a child and confidante, a trusted adult who can help steer them in the right direction, let me just suggest this was a constructive amendment because it was to give the child an ability to consult with someone that may be out of the pipeline and be out of the child's distress area, meaning we have never looked at the point that possibly the parent could be the predator or could be engaged in incest. All of these are terrible things to discuss, but in a responsible debate, these were the considerations why these amendments were authored.

Ultimately, that amendment to allow a grandparent or sibling to confide or that child to confide in that particular adult or that particular sibling, adult sibling, it was described by the gentleman's amendment, was described as having exempted sexual predators from prosecution under the bill and suggested that it was defeated in a roll call vote.

Subsequently, the gentleman from Virginia offered an amendment to protect innocent bystanders who might have someone take their mode of transportation, a taxicab, a bus or other mode of transportation, not knowing who they are carrying, and ultimately caught up in the legislation and be prosecuted. So this was to exempt innocent bus drivers, taxicab drivers and others who would be transporting individuals, and, again, the amendment was described as exempting sexual predators.

A subsequent amendment that limited liability to the person committing the offense in the first degree was ultimately described and suggested that it would aid and abet criminals.

Then an amendment that I offered, the amendment was to exempt clergy, godparents, aunts, uncles or first cousins from the penalties in the bill, again to give a young woman a greater latitude of who to seek comfort and counsel from, and ultimately, that amendment was described, "Ms. JACKSON-LEE